



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to allocate Public Benefit Program funds to extend the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project for fiscal year 2003-2004 (\$50,000)

MEETING DATE: July 16, 2003

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to allocate \$50,000 in Public Benefit Program funds to extend the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project for the fiscal year 2003-2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This innovative program was launched in the summer of 2002. The Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project is designed to provide both private and public school students and educators with hands-on solar educational materials, technology kits and experiments (the targeted student grade levels for 2003-2004 will be 2nd through 9th grade). The technology kits contain various solar experiments and tests, allowing students and teachers to learn first-hand how the sun serves as a renewable energy resource.

In addition to the technology kits (most of which were delivered to various school sites throughout the community in 2002), the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project provides individual mini-grants to teachers wishing to develop their own specific and unique solar-related experiment or project (in the previous fiscal year, several teachers/private schools received mini-grants for such things as solar car construction, and the development of a mini-village powered by solar technology). The mini-grants, with a maximum grant amount of \$1,500, are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lastly, in conjunction with the Rarus Institute, additional teacher training opportunities will be made available to local school instructors throughout the current fiscal year. These training venues allow teachers to become better acquainted with solar technology, before applying that technology into the classroom. The Rarus Institute is a non-profit organization based in Walnut Creek, California, focusing attention on renewable energy resources. This organization, which was an invaluable partner with the City of Lodi Electric Utility in 2002-2003 fiscal year, devotes the majority of its time to fostering relationships between local electric utility providers throughout the state, and educators.

The Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project has been warmly received by Lodi Unified School District personnel, as well as private school principals and educators. The City of Lodi Electric Utility staff respectfully recommends approval of this project as a qualifying component of the City of Lodi Public Benefits Program, under the category of Renewable Energy Resources & Technologies, otherwise referred to as New & Emerging Technologies.

FUNDING: Public Benefits Fund- 164608 (New & Emerging Technologies)

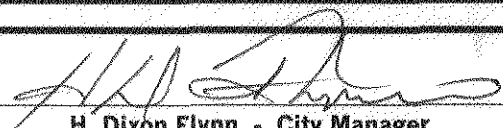

Vicky McAthie
Finance Director


Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Rob Lechner, Manager of Customer Service & Programs, EUD
ANV/RL/mdw

C: City Attorney
Finance Director

APPROVED:


H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-130

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING
THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$50,000.00 TO FUND THE PUBLIC BENEFITS PROGRAM GRANT –
LODI SOLAR EDUCATION OUTREACH PILOT PROJECT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2003-04

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WHEREAS, the state has mandated that beginning January 1, 1998, the City of Lodi is obligated to fund various programs through a Public Benefits Charge (PBC) based on an historical electric revenue requirement; and

WHEREAS, the requirement amounts to approximately \$1 million per year that must be dedicated to qualifying programs such as energy efficiency. A further stipulation is that these efforts must be done on the customer's side of the meter in order to qualify; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lodi's Public Benefits Program is comprised of four segments or customer groups: commercial/industrial, residential, community/non-profit, and municipal; and

WHEREAS, this pilot project is designed to provide hands-on solar educational materials and technology kits to both private and public school students in Lodi, grade levels 2nd through 9th grade. These technology kits will contain various solar experiments, allowing students and teachers to learn first-hand how the sun may serve as a renewable energy resource; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the technology kits (most of which were delivered to various school sites throughout the community in 2002), the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project provides individual mini-grants to teachers wishing to develop their own specific and unique solar-related experiment or project (in the previous fiscal year, several teachers/private schools received mini-grants for such things as solar car construction, and the development of a mini-village powered by solar technology). The mini-grants, with a maximum grant amount of \$1,500, are provided on a first-come, first-served basis; and

WHEREAS, lastly, in conjunction with the Rarus Institute, additional teacher training opportunities will be made available to local school instructors throughout the current fiscal year. These training venues allow teachers to become better acquainted with solar technology, before applying that technology into the classroom. The Rarus Institute is a non-profit organization based in Walnut Creek, California, focusing attention on renewable energy resources. This organization, which was an invaluable partner with the City of Lodi Electric Utility in 2002-03 fiscal year, devotes the majority of its time to fostering relationships between local electric utility providers throughout the state, and educators; and

WHEREAS, the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Project has been warmly received by Lodi Unified School District personnel, as well as private school principals and educators. The City of Lodi Electric Utility staff recommends approval of this project as a qualifying component of the City of Lodi Public Benefits Program, under the category of Renewable Energy Resources & Technologies, otherwise referred to as New & Emerging Technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Rarus Institute based in Walnut Creek, California, is a non-profit organization focusing attention on renewable energy resources. The organization devotes the majority of its time to creating partnerships between local electric utility providers and educators, promoting solar energy technology; and

WHEREAS, after receiving enthusiastic support from private school principals and representatives from Lodi Unified School District, the City of Lodi Electric Utility recommends approval of this pilot project. As identified by the California Energy Commission, this pilot project is a qualifying component of the City of Lodi Public Benefits Program, under the category of Renewable Energy Resources & Technologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to provide Public Benefits Program grant funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 to fund the Lodi Solar Education Outreach Pilot Project.

Dated: July 16, 2003

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2003-130 was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held July 16, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Beckman, Hansen, Howard, and Land

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Mayor Hitchcock

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk